(Ireland.)

PAPERS

RELATING TO ILLICIT DISTILLATION;

VIZ.

REPORT of *Daniel Logie*, Esq. Inspector General of Excise:—
With Documents, (1. 2. & 3.)

Londonderry, April 16th, 1819.

GENTLEMEN,

IN obedience to Your order, directing me to report the present state of Illicit Distillation in my inspection, and to transmit an account of the number of Warrants executed and Sums levied, on account of Still Fines, since the date of the notice issued by me, under the Board's order, I herewith beg leave to enclose the Accounts required.

WHEN I took charge of this inspection, in November last, illicit distillation had been suppressed in the barony of Ennishowen, with the exception of two Townlands near Londonderry, and the island of Inch. There were no outstanding fines against the latter place, but I had the two Townlands (Gorteormican and Camamvile) driven, and although there were but 24*l.* 4*s.* levied from both, illicit distillation ceased in those places, and the inhabitants surrendered their stills, &c. to me.

There was but one detection made in the lower part of Ennishowen since November last, at Muff, in the parish of Culdaff, where a still head and worm were seized by one of the officers whom I had sent from Londonderry for that purpose. In consequence of this detection, I levied a still fine on the *illicit distillers* in that Townland. I also levied 2*l.* 19*s.* from a distiller in the townland of Leitrim, in whose house some singlings were found on the 25th of December last; he afterwards surrendered his still, &c.

The entire sums levied in Ennishowen by me, amounts to 55 *l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* Previous to the levying of the above, the smugglers were entertained in an idea that the still fines (the collection of which had been suspended in consequence of the distressed state of Donegal the last two years) would never be collected; and to this opinion may be attributed, whatever illicit distillation has been carried on in Donegal for the last year. This levy has, however, brought conviction to the smugglers of their error, and has proved more effectual in preventing illicit distilling, than any other means that could be adopted.

There has been no detection made in the barony of Ennishowen, either of distilling or malting, since December last, except in the island of Inch; but the inhabitants of that island (who are the most respectable and wealthy in Ennishowen) have all sworn not to distil again; they have surrendered their stills, &c. and I feel warranted in stating, that illicit distillation may be considered as entirely suppressed in Ennishowen.

On my arrival in this district, I found that illicit distillation was carried on to a great extent in the barony of Kilmacrennan, in the county Donegal, particularly in the parishes of Clondavadock otherwise Fanneth, Meavagh alias Rosgnill, and Conwell alias Glenswilly. In one parish alone, there were upwards of 130 stills at work on the first of January last, eighty of them were in lower Rosgnill, which appeared by the private communication (to the Board) of a gentleman in that parish.

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When the Revenue Police were established in February, I placed a party at Rosnakill, in the centre of the parish of Clondavadock, and another at Coxheath, in the parish of Meavah. With their aid, and the parties stationed at Letterkenny and Rameltnn, I was enabled to levy 261 *l.* 19 *s.* in ten Townlands in this barony; which has produced the best effects in Fannell, Rosgnill, and Glenswilly. In the latter place (most notorious for smuggling) they have all ceased working, and have surrendered their stills, and I am of opinion there is not now an illicit distillery at work in Letterkenny Survey; in Rosgnill and Fannell there is very little distillation at present, and I have no doubt that the existing system, if pursued with vigour, will, in a short time, entirely annihilate the trade.

The licensed distillers have been for some time past drawing large supplies nf barley from the baronies of Ennisbowen and Kilmacrennan, which was formerly insufficient for the supply of their own illicit traders, and several persons have obtained licenses this year to retail spirits in the most remote parts nf the latter baronies, viz. Kenykeel, Rosnakill, Milford, Kilmacrennan, Glen, Coxheath, Cnerslough, Glenswilly, and Dunfanaghy, and duty-paid spirits has been sent to the latter place this year three different times, where a single gallon had never been sent before.

There were fifty-one stills, forty-nine heads, and forty worms of stills surrendered by the smugglers of this barony, previous to the last assizes, as will appear by the enclosed Return, and as many more have been given up by nther Townlands in this inspection. I am well aware that they have retained a considerable number (concealed) expecting, no doubt, that some change may be made in the fining system this session; but when they are convinced of the contrary, I have every expectation that the remaining stills will be surrendered.

In the baronies of Tyrrhugh and Raphoe, there has been very little distilling latterly, and that principally confined to the Townlands on which no fines were imposed until last assizes, the warrants for which I have not yet received.

Illicit distillation in the barony of Barragh is at present entirely confined to the parish nf Glencolmkiln. The bridge at Glen (the only pass from Killybeggs to this parish) was carried away in March 1818; since then the revenue parties have to cross a very dangerous ford, which they can only pass in fine weather, and even then at very great risk. I levied part of a still-fine (13 *l.* 2 *s.* 5 ½ *d.*) on the townland of Currin, in this parish; since then the smugglers have proposed to surrender their stills, and some of them have been given up to their landlord Mr. Hume.

The parish of Templecroan, commonly called the Rosses, in the barony nf Boylagh, and the islands nn that coast, is now the last resource nf the smugglers, whn carry the grain there (almost entirely oats) upwards of *forty* miles to distil, and they have to bring the spirits generally *sixty* miles to a market. This parish is by far the most wild in Donegal, consisting of barren mountains, rocks, loughs, and bogs, with a few patches of arable land, generally a great distance asunder. There is a small detachment of military stationed at Meenmore barrack in this parish, where I placed a most zealous and active officer, with instructions to use every exertion to destroy malt, as the only means of annoying the smugglers on the islands where they could not get it ground; and I find that since December last he has seized and destnyed one hundred and eighty-one barrels of malt, principally made from oats.

The principal part of the barony of Boylah, is the property nf the Marquis of Conyngham. I had an interview with his agent (Nassau Foster, Esq.) at Glentis, and strongly urged the necessity of some exertion on his part, which might induce the tenantry on that estate to give up their stills, and discontinue illicit distilling, nthewise I should be obliged to levy the outstanding fines. I beg leave to enclose a letter from Mr. Foster to Mr. Pentland (my assistant) nn this subject, by which it appears the Townlands that have been fined, are willing to surrender their stills, and give security for their future conduct, provided the fines be not *levied*. I would not hesitate to recommend that this proposal should be accepted, if Mr. Foster would engage to use his influence with the tenants nf Lord Conyngham in the several inlands and townlands which have *not been fined*, and where the smugglers have taken refuge from the exertions of the officers stationed at Meenmore.

I have hitherto been prevented seeing Mr. Foster, by indisposition; I expect, however, tn meet him at the Rnsses in a few days, and shall submit any further proposal he may make to the Board's consideration.

There

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There were but sixteen or seventeen detections made in the entire of the county Londonderry for the last eight months; a sufficient proof that illicit distillation is nearly suppressed in that county.

The parishes of Tamnonomongaw, Upper Badony, and Doniaghada, in the county Tyrone, were the only parts of my inspection in that county where illicit distillation was carried on to any extent; no fines had been levied there for the two last years, until within these few days, when some of the Townlands in those parishes have been driven by the officers under my inspection. The smugglers are now bringing in their stills, and I have no doubt but a short time will suppress illicit distillation in those parishes entirely.

There has been very little distillation in that part of the county Fermanagh that is within my inspection.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient and faithful Servant
Daniel Logie, I. Gen[l].

Copy.

J. Stoyte,
First and Chief Clerk,
Excise Department.

(1.)—STILLS,

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—(1.)—

STILLS, HEADS, and WORMS, delivered up by Owners.

Date of Delivery.	Owner's Names.	Parish.	Townland.	Stills.	Heads.	Worms.
1818:						
Dec. - 23.	Manus Kelly - -	Conwell - -	Brunagh - -	1	1	1
" "	Pat. Dougherty - -	- D° - -	Fahy-kane - -	1	1	—
" "	Hu. McConnell - -	- D° - -	Croughless - -	1	—	—
" "	Donald McDrad - -	- D° - -	- D° - -	1	1	1
1819.						
Jan. - - 1.	Edwd Martin - -	- D° - -	Drimmanon - -	-	1	1
" - - 26.	Conn. McDrad - -	- D° - -	Derora - -	1	1	1
" "	Edwd McDrad - -	- D° - -	Tullins - -	1	1	1
" "	James White - -	- D° - -	Kughan - -	1	1	1
March - 22.	Brian Diver - -	- D° - -	Carrick - -	1	1	1
Dec. - 28.	Brian Donnell - -	Gartan - -	Ballinfull - -	1	1	1
Feb. - - 10.	Thomas Cunin - -	- D° - -	Glendone - -	1	1	1
" "	James Duffy - -	- D° - -	Pullindough -	1	1	1
Jan. - - 26.	H. McMonagher - -	Luk - -	Linlalea - -	1	1	1
" "	Fras' Dogherty - -	D° - - -	Drimminought -	1	1	1
Feb. - - 17.	Pat. Kennedy - -	D° - - -	Carrukalongin -	-	1	1
" "	Jno. McMonagh - -	D° - - -	Kerrymosney -	1	1	1
" "	John Moore - -	D° - - -	Ballyshrang - -	1	1	1
Jan. - - 28.	Edwd Dorrin - -	Clondavadock -	Toam - - -	1	-	1
March - 13	Owen Martin - -	- - D° - -	Doughbegg - -	1	1	1
" "	Hu. Downy - -	- - D° - -	- D° - -	1	1	1
Jan. - - 30.	John Gallagher - -	Kilmacrennan -	Fawns - -	-	1	1
" "	James Noher - -	- - D° - -	Carrys - - -	1	1	1
March - 22.	Pat. Lenagh - -	- - D° - -	Camysalt - -	1	1	1
Feb. - 22.	John McElhow - -	Meavagh - -	Ardhawn - -	3	3	3
" "	John McBride - -	- D° - -	Altyhevran - -	1	1	—
" - - 23.	James Boyce - -	- D° - -	Doocy - -	1	1	1
" "	"	- D° - -	Manmore - -	2	2	1
" "	"	- D° - -	Clonhollogh - -	1	1	—
" "	James Nogher - -	- D° - -	Carrigs - -	1	—	1
" "	C. Coyle - - -	- D° - -	Tyrlaryhan - -	1	1	1
" "	Mich Sheal - -	- D° - -	Derryhaggin -	1	1	1
" "	Jam' McClopety - -	- D° - -	- D° - -	1	1	1
" "	John Coyle - -	- D° - -	Clagan - -	1	—	—
" "	Doug' McForden - -	- D° - -	Tyrlaghan - -	1	1	—
March - 22.	Humph' Shiels - -	- D° - -	Derryhaggin -	3	2	1
" "	Andw. Shiels - -	- D° - -	Drumdoan - -	2	2	2
" - - 24.	A. McElhur - -	- D° - -	Strahan - -	1	2	—
" "	Mich' Coil - - -	- D° - -	Drummanaughbt -	1	1	1
" "	Donnis Dogherty -	- D° - -	Glassin - -	1	1	1
Feb. - - 23.	Pat Fury - - -	Ryementerdury	Ballybow - -	1	1	—
" "	Bern' Dogberty - -	Clonderhoskey -	Kilmanloo - -	1	—	1
" "	Messrs Olphert & Ellison	- - D° - -	Dinhavin - -	1	1	—
" "	- - D° - - -	Tulloughbegly -	Mimarldy - -	1	1	—
" "	- - D° - - -	- - D° - -	- D° - -	1	1	—
" "	- - D° - - -	- - D° - -	Ardisbeg - -	2	2	2
" "	- - D° - - -	- - D° - -	Magherinty - -	1	-	1
" "	Dan' McGellany - -	Clondavadock -	Lisbury - -	1	1	—
" "	Cha' Downy - -	- - D° - -	Durgan - -	-	1	1
			TOTAL - £.	51	49	40

To *Dan' W. Logie*, Esq.
Insp' Gen'.

(Copy)
J' Stoyte.

William Miller,
Assis' to Insp' Gen'.

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— 2. —

To G. Pentland, Esq.

Rutland, March 18th, 1819.

SIR,

SINCE I had the pleasure of seeing you and the Inspector General, I have been racking my brains to devise a plan in aid of the views of Government to suppress Illicit Distillation, and that would at the same time save the painful necessity of having recourse to the harsh measure of driving Townlands, where the innocent are made to suffer with the guilty. An idea has struck me which would tend in a great measure, if not effectually, to suppress Illicit Distillation, a most baneful practice.

In order to ascertain how far my plan might be practicable, I sounded the disposition of the inhabitants of two Townlands adjoining my own neighbourhood; and such was their avidity, from terror of being driven, to embrace the proposition, that they instantly offered to give me up all their stills, and various implements of the trade; this I did not feel myself warranted in accepting. I do think the plan, if tried, will in a very short time answer every wished-for purpose; it is as follows:

All Townlands against which fines are now hanging over, to bring in their stills, &c. &c. on oath, and to get two, three or four of the inhabitants (in proportion to the population) to give security on oath, and by bond in the sum of £. that they will not permit or suffer Whisky or Malt to be made therein for the space of ( ) years, at the expiration of which period a new bond, to be executed in case of the death or removal of any of the former bail (or the original number of the bail to be always kept full) and in case of transgression not only the fine, which I would always keep hanging over them as a compulsory terrorem measure, but the bail to be forfeited and levied.

I am decidedly of opinion that every Townland that has been fined will come into this lenient measure, sooner than suffer themselves to be driven.

By adopting my plan, you bring into your aid a number of auxiliaries to aid your views, and will, I may say, be so many Revenue Assistants, without the additional tax of one penny, and perhaps ultimately save to the State the heavy expense of establishing a Revenue Police.

If I am authorized I will try the experiment in Templecroane; and I have no doubt but I shall be able to carry it into general effect (those Townlands that refuse compliance let them suffer) in all Lord Conyngham's estate; my frequent intercourse among the tenants, giving me a knowledge and influence among them, which no other local resident possesses.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

Nassau Forster.

(Copy) *J. Stoyte,*
First and Chief Clerk, Excise Department.

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—(3.)—

An Account of the STILL FINES levied in the County of *Donegal*, from the 16th November 1818, to the 16th of April 1819.

BARONY.	PARISH.	TOWNLAND.	AMOUNT. £.	s.	d.
Ennishowen	Templemore	Gortconnican	11	4	7
	D°	Camamvile	12	19	5
	Culdaff	Muff	28	6	8
	D°	Leitrim	2	19	—
Kilmacrennan	Clondavadock	Toam	28	6	8
	Kilmacrennan	Barnes	28	6	8
	Meavagh	Maherabeg	28	6	8
	D°	Drim	28	6	8
	D°	Derryhassin	40	16	7
	Conwell	Derrora	28	6	8
	Meavagh	Gortmore	17	12	6
	D°	Torloughan	23	10	—
	D°	Creevey	25	16	8
	D°	Dundoan	12	9	11
Boylagh	Enniskeel	Maas	7	7	6
	D°	Ballyinsten	11	7	6
	Lettermacaward	Durylaconnell	15	—	—
	Enniskeel	Cloughnacullian	10	—	—
	D°	Kilclooney	11	—	—
Bannagh	Glencolmkilm	Currin	13	2	5½
		Total	£. 385	6	1½

Derry, 16th April 1819.

Daniel Logie,
Insp^r Genl Excise, and Still Fine Collector for the County Donegal.

(Copy)
J. Stoyte.

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(Ireland.)

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VIZ.

Report of *Daniel Logue*, Esq. Inspector General of Excise.—With Documents, (1. 2. 3.)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
26 *April* 1819.

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